



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DOGM  
MINERALS PROGRAM  
FILE COPY

September 23, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist HWS

RE: Site Inspection, Far West, M/037/019; Radon (no number); Cord (no number); Patti Ann, M/037/003; LaSal #1 M/037/039, and Standard II, S/037/011; San Juan County, Utah.

Date of Inspection: September 23, 1991, 1991  
Time of Inspection: 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Warm, sunny  
Participants: Sal Venticinque, BLM; Wayne Wright, Energy Fuels; Tony Gallegos, and Holland Shepherd, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To inspect recent reclamation work performed by Energy Fuels on the sites listed above.

We met with Sal Venticinque of the BLM and Wayne Wright, of Energy Fuels, in the Lisbon Valley area to observe the finished reclamation work that the operator has been working on over the past two months, and has recently completed. Two of the sites above, the Radon and the Cord, were not originally permitted with the Division and are considered to be pre-act. However, the operator went ahead and reclaimed portions of these sites to reduce the public safety hazard and some of the environmental hazards associated with these two mine sites. The operator had earlier asked that the Division advise and approve of the work performed at these pre-law sites. The Far West and the Patti Ann mine sites have been reclaimed as committed to in the original MRP.

## Radon - Cord

We first looked at the Radon site. All of the buildings and all trash have been removed from the site. All portals and the one large, deep shaft have been sealed up. Regrading work has been done on the old waste dumps. The shaft has been sealed



Page 2

Energy Fuels Mines

M/037/019, M/037/003, M/037/039 & S/037/011

September 23, 1991

with a steel plate and has had soil material placed over the top of it to a depth of about 3-4 feet. The road accessing the Cord was ripped by the operator and large boulders were placed at the entrance of the roads to inhibit people from driving on the reclaimed mine site. The operator has left the concrete foundations of the Cord, but has removed all the rebar, metal protrusions from the concrete foundations. Reclamation has been completed in the same fashion at the Radon as the Cord, except the area was not as extensive. The work at the Cord and Radon was submitted to the BLM and to the Division before the operator went in to do it, and the operator did receive concurrence from both agencies to perform the work at the Cord and Radon.

#### Far West

The next site we visited was the Far West. The Far West site was permitted and approved by the Division in 1977. The operator was required to perform complete reclamation at this site. All buildings, foundations, and debris have been removed from the site or buried on site. The portal has been sealed off by backfilling. All of the waste dumps have been regraded to slopes of either 3:1 or greater. The site has had some re-topsoiling performed. However, there was no original topsoil salvaged when the mine site was initiated, so very little topsoil was there to use for final reclamation.

The operator has ripped the access road to the mine site and has placed large boulders at the entrance. The access road is about 1/4 mile in length. Large boulders were placed there to prevent people from accessing the site after the reclamation was performed. Everything has been done at this site except the seeding. As far as the Division is concerned, the site can be released for the portion of reclamation that has been done. The earth moving, regrading, demolition, etc. The only thing the Division is not satisfied with at this point in time, is the access around the boulder barricades that the operator has placed there. We asked Mr. Wayne Wright to take care of that problem in the near future. One small problem with the reclamation of this site may be the access roads, which in the future could provide a route for individuals on RV's or four-wheel drive pickup trucks to access the site. The road should have been regraded in places and something done to it more than just ripping. An evaluation next spring will determine whether or not the road still needs further reclamation.



### Patti Ann

Our next visit was to the Patti Ann and the Columbia Shaft mine sites, which are adjacent sites. The operator has just finished topsoiling the old low grade ore pile and is in the process of finishing off regrading the pad associated with the Columbia Shaft. The low grade ore pile has been graded to 3:1 or greater slopes and about 6 inches to 1 foot of topsoil has been placed over the low grade ore. All structures have been removed from these sites, the Patti Ann and the Columbia. The shaft has been sealed with a steel plate, and soil material placed over it to a depth of 3-4 feet.

The waste dumps associated with the Columbia Shaft portion of this site will be reclaimed partially, but only on top. The side slopes, because of the pre-act status, will not be reclaimed. Unfortunately, the side slopes are at angle of repose and contain a lot of trash and debris, which will continue to erode for many years. The Division and the BLM is not requiring the operator to reclaim the outcrops because of their pre-act status. I asked Mr. Wayne Wright to talk to the contractor about ripping and regrading further the pad or dump top associated with the Columbia Shaft. This area has not been reseeded yet but will be done in the next couple of weeks, after the Division provides a seed mix recommendation.

### LaSal #1 Shaft

The next site visited was the LaSal #1 Shaft. This was an old shaft that was associated with the Columbia and had been used by Atlas at one time as an escape route. It had an old iron headframe that has totally been removed. The shaft has been backfilled. Most of the debris has been removed from the site. This site was not part of the original Mine and Reclamation Plan, so will not be considered a part of this reclamation lease. Again, this is something the operator has done as an extra measure of reclamation.

Atlas has another site in this area they are considering for reclamation; that is the Standard II which is about a mile south of the Patti Ann/Columbia Shaft area. The Standard II has been partially reclaimed. The upper portion road and portal was reclaimed several years ago. What remains to be reclaimed is the lower pad, staging area, and the mine access road itself, which is about 1/4 mile in length. We asked Mr. Wayne Wright to get back to us as to whether or not Energy Fuels will go ahead and reclaim the rest of this site.

Page 4

Energy Fuels Mines

M/037/019, M/037/003, M/037/039 & S/037/011

September 23, 1991

Energy Fuels plans to do the reseeding of these sites mentioned above within the next couple of weeks. They have already requested the Division look at these reclaimed sites for partial release at this time, and for full release in the next 3-4 years after the planting has been done. Mr. Sal Venticinque of the BLM indicated to us that he was satisfied with the work that has been done and would recommend to the Division that we allow partial bond release for these sites.

cc: Roger Smith, Energy Fuels  
Sal Venticinque, BLM, Grand RA  
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Insp 9-23